

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

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**Attendees:** Chair LeRoy Westerling, Vice Chair Patti LiWang, Christopher Viney, Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Kevin Mitchell, Erin Hestir, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, David Jennings, Martin Hagger, Min Hwan Lee, Justin Yeakel, Jeff Butler

I. Chair's Report – LeRoy Westerling

A. C19 Cabinet Meetings

The campus plans to distribute an executive summary of the set of transitional steps the campus will take if there is another COVID-19 surge. However, the Senate has the option to review the full details. GC Chair Hestir stated that VPDUE Frey is keeping GC and UGC informed and recommended that the Senate review the entire contingency plan when it is available.

B. Academic Council (10/27/21)

The main topics of discussion were:

- Assembly Bill 1550 was signed by the Governor on October 9. This new law allows instructors who are currently in a bargaining unit to remain eligible for union representation if they become Senate faculty. They could potentially be members of the Academic Senate while still being part of a union.
- Plan to add 20,000 more students across the UC system by 2030. UC Merced and UC Riverside will see a significant amount of growth. UC Merced's new Health & Behavioral Sciences (HBS) building will be funded by the state and includes classroom space.
- Academic Council did not endorse the Smarter Balanced test which was a potential replacement for the SAT.
- The Chair of the Board of Regents discussed the proposal for increased investment in building upgrades across the UC system and the climate investment proposal from the UC to the state legislature.

II. Consultation with Paul Maglio, Director of Division of Management and Information

Director Maglio, accompanied by Professors Jessica Trounstine (political science) and Andrew Johnston (economics and business management), consulted with Divisional Council about the Gallo School pre-proposal.

Professor Trounstine announced that the department of political science is joining the other three departments (cognitive and information sciences, economics and business management, and management of complex systems) in the move to the Gallo School. The Gallo School planning team asked for Divisional Council's feedback so the team can revise the pre-proposal in a way that gives it the best chance to succeed at higher levels of approval. The goal is to submit a pre-proposal that represents UC Merced well.

A Divisional Council member conveyed some faculty members' concern about how the Gallo School plans to focus on management when it will comprise varied departments such as cognitive and information sciences, economics and business management, political science, and management of complex systems. Professor Trounstine explained that each of the departments is interested in identifying societal problems and finding solutions. Issues such as decision-making and political cognition are just two of the aligned interests shared by faculty in the four departments. The departments also have a shared desire for the same kind of training they want for their undergraduate and graduate students (such as data science approaches), plus the same desire for conducting interdisciplinary research and reaching R1 status. Faculty across the departments are currently co-authoring papers together.

A Divisional Council member raised the issue of salary raises for faculty who move to the Gallo School. Professor Trounstine confirmed that there is no change in salary or teaching load for faculty in the four departments who are moving into the Gallo School. Director Maglio added that the Gallo Planning team agreed with CAPRA's recommendation from last year to remove the reference to salary considerations from the pre-proposal and instead address salary issues through normal campus processes. With regard to any negative impact of salary inequities. Professor Trounstine stated that the future dean of the Gallo School will be encouraged to understand the importance of equity, positive working relationships, and transparency.

A Divisional Council member asked how the Gallo School will contribute to the UC mandate of increased enrollment. Professor Trounstine answered that the Gallo School planning team is focused on enrollment and their four programs have health growth trajectories. Also, each department has ideas on increasing enrollment. Political Science has added a public policy track and there is a discussion about establishing a data science major.

A Divisional Council member asked for clarification on the Gallo School offering an MBA and about accreditation. Professor Trounstine confirmed that the school will not offer an MBA degree at this time, but this could be revisited in the future. Senate Chair Westerling added that originally, faculty involved in the Gallo School planning were thinking in the context of the management of complex systems department and potentially only 10-15 FTE. Getting the full suite of faculty needed for accreditation for a traditional MBA program would mean no flexibility in hiring and the school would not have been as strong as competing institutions. Given the lack of resources to establish a traditional, competitive MBA program, the faculty decided to be more innovative and draw on the strengths of the campus by taking into account the broader Gallo project.

A Divisional Council member asked about the general viewpoint of SSHA faculty given that three of the school's departments would be moving. (There is also a question about the future position of the departments of public health and psychological sciences given the new medical education program and new HBS building.) Professor Trounstine replied that the Gallo Planning team has not yet met with the SSHA Executive Committee. The planning team wants SSHA to be in a good position with sufficient resources so it can continue to succeed. Director Maglio stated that if approved, the Gallo School would be established approximately by AY 23-24.

A Divisional Council member asked how the Gallo Planning team addressed Divisional Council's concerns with the pre-proposal last year. Professor Trounstine responded that Divisional Council was concerned about the lack of support in SSHA and wondered where the resources will come from to

support the new school. The Gallo Planning team is consulting with each Senate committee in an effort to gather information and revise the pre-proposal. She added that the planning team needs to ensure that the Chancellor and EVC/Provost are committed to providing resources. The planning team has had many conversations with them.

Professor Trounstein added that the pre-proposal needs to make the case for why the Gallo School is needed and how the four programs will work together. A Divisional Council member suggested that the planning team revise the pre-proposal in such a way that frames the establishment of the Gallo School as an important aspect of the University's growth rather than a balkanization of SSHA. Another Divisional Council member added that the pre-proposal should also speak to how the Gallo School will contribute to the UC's enrollment growth mandate.

III. Consent Calendar  
A. The Agenda

**Action:** the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Discussion Item: Research Support – Chair Westerling

Senate Chair Westerling shared that Interim CFO Schnier turned down a proposal from SNRI in which SNRI staff could do all purchasing for SNRI PIs. The rationale for not approving the proposal was that Oracle was designed to be self-service. Senate Chair Westerling spoke with Interim CFO Schnier and emphasized that the self-service procurement model is not tenable as it is not the faculty's job to enter their own orders. Senate Chair Westerling also reiterated to Interim CFO Schnier that the campus has serious management issues and these issues do not seem to be taken into account each time the campus adopts a new system. Divisional Council members agreed that faculty should not have absorb the problems caused by Oracle. If such a high percentage of orders are incorrect due to wrong information about CoA strings or POET, then it is likely a system flaw rather than the fault of the faculty.

V. Vice Chair's Report – Patti LiWang  
A. October 14 Senior Administrative Council Meeting

Senate Vice Chair LiWang reported the following main topics of discussion:

- Funding for increased staff hiring. There will be no new faculty hiring for next fall but it is unclear whether an exception will be made for failed searches or replacement searches. Senate Chair Westerling pointed out that the CSE department is hiring new faculty due to failed searches per a recent memo from the EVC/Provost's office.
- Enrollment growth is key to keeping the campus funded. The Chancellor emphasized the goal of 9,500 students enrolled next fall. If there is no increase in enrollment next year, there will be no additional money and therefore no budget call.
- The Chancellor allocated \$2 million from the MacKenzie Scott gift fund to the Graduate Division to be used for graduate fellowships. The goal is to enroll more PhD students to help the campus achieve R1 status. If the Chancellor approves of the way in which the funds are spent by the Graduate Division, he may allocate more funding.
- Interim CFO Schnier announced that the new staff hires in CBS2 will not enter CoA strings or POET for orders.
- Each School gave a presentation on their number of students and plans to increase enrollment.

- The Chancellor is allocating \$1 million from the MacKenzie Scott fund to the Academic Senate. If he approves of the way that money is spent, he may allocate more funding.

A Divisional Council member expressed concern that the campus administration is only focused on enrollment growth in the context of the budget model. Research expenditures is an equally important factor as it is on other UC campuses. The campus needs to better understand and appreciate research investment. Senate Chair Westerling agreed and suggested that CAPRA and CoR consult with Interim CFO Schnier on the model for research support. For example, what are the revenue flows from research? CoR Chair Sexton responded that Interim VCORED Zatz is attending the November 1 CoR meeting and plans to present slides on the path to reaching R1 status. The questions that Senate Chair Westerling raised may be answered in that presentation.

#### VI. Undergraduate and Graduate Councils' Updates - UGC Chair Moyes and GC Chair Hestir

UGC Chair Moyes reported that the joint UGC and GC working group is evaluating how to approve requests for online courses and how to track them. The working group is also meeting with Schools. When submitting requests for online courses, programs are asked to provide curriculum maps to avoid having over 50% of their courses online as well as the number of their courses that are already offered online. UGC Chair Moyes added that the two committees are also trying to define hybrid and online. The goal is to update Curriculog by January in order to approve online course requests for the fall. She reiterated that UGC and GC are approving temporary requests to offer online courses in spring and summer. GC Chair Hestir added that by next fall, UGC and GC hope to see department chairs exercising their authority per the APM.

#### VII. Systemwide Review Items

##### A. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 478 (IGETC) – UGC Chair Moyes

The revision was proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) to create Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Area 7 – Ethnic Studies, in response to the new state legislation (AB 1460 (Weber)) requiring the California State University (CSU) to include an Ethnic Studies course in the General Education curriculum for a baccalaureate degree.

Comments were received from AFAC, CRE, EDI, GC, and the School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee.

UGC Chair Moyes summarized the proposed revisions to SR 478 and stated that the feedback from Senate committees was positive. Some faculty did suggest that other prefixes in addition to ethnic studies could be used to fulfill the requirement. Divisional Council members agreed. UGC Chair Moyes stated that General Education is working to ensure their requirements are more evenly distributed across the three Schools.

Divisional Council members had no additional comments.

**Action:** Divisional Council endorsed the proposed revisions to SR 478 along with the recommendation of using additional prefixes. Divisional Council's comments will be transmitted to Academic Council Chair Horwitz by November 15.

B. Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment – FWAF Chair Jennings

The proposed revisions aim to (i) comply with a new State Law, Senate Bill 493, and (ii) better account for Prohibited Conduct in the clinical setting. Background is available in Systemwide Title IX Director’s memo and was linked on today’s agenda.

Comments were received by CAP, CRE, EDI, FWAF, and the School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee.

FWAF Chair Jennings briefly summarized the proposed revisions. He stated that CAP suggested that the Title IX Officer should update the complainant on the status of an investigation monthly rather than leaving the timeline open ended.

Divisional Council members had no additional comments.

**Action:** Divisional Council endorsed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. Divisional Council’s comments will be transmitted to Academic Council Chair Horwitz by November 15.

C. Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices – GC Chair Hestir

Comments were received by GC and the SSHA Executive Committee.

GC Chair Hestir briefly summarized the proposed revisions and the feedback from the two Senate committees. The feedback was generally positive. Both GC and the SSHA Executive Committee had helpful recommendations on investment in mass transportation infrastructure. Divisional Council members agreed. (Senate Chair Westerling stated that the Merced campus needs additional charging stations.)

Comments from the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) are forthcoming.

**Action:** Divisional Council will postpone transmitting its comments to Academic Council Chair Horwitz until the FACS comments are received. Divisional Council’s comments are due to Academic Council by December 7.

VIII. Other Business

Senate Chair Westerling raised the following topics:

- The review of the ORU proposal from the Community and Labor Center will be re-started after the administration notifies the Senate. Given that UC Merced has received gift funds and more funding from the state since the original proposal was submitted last year, should the Senate confine its review to the ORU proposal’s intellectual merits and leave aside the various questions about campus resources that Divisional Council brought up to the administration in the last academic year? Senate Chair Westerling asked CAPRA to formulate a framework for the review of the ORU proposal. CAPRA Chair Mitchell replied that the forthcoming campus budget call will be limited in scope and it is unclear whether the call will extend to requests for new ORUs and Schools. If requests for new ORUs and Schools are not rolled into the campus budget call, it is unclear what funds will be used to support them.

- At the Academic Council meeting, it was mentioned that given the positive UC budget outlook, there will be a systemwide request for faculty salary increases (3% increase to scales, 1.7% to pay for merits, and 1% for equity).
- The state will pay for UC Merced's new HBS building.
- GSRs are now unionized. UC Merced will need guidance given that TAs and GSRs are represented by different unions.
- Senate Chair Westerling mentioned the School of Engineering Executive Committee's previous request (discussed in a previous Divisional Council meeting) to allow lecturers and adjunct faculty to deliver CSE lectures remotely in spring 2022 on an emergency basis. GC Chair Hestir emphasized that GC and UGC are not approving *instructors* to teach remotely, but rather *courses*. Therefore, there should be no concerns about inequities among individual instructors. She reiterated the point she made earlier in today's meeting that it is the department chairs' duty to assign instructors to courses.
- The UC and the UC-AFT are back in negotiations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

Attest: LeRoy Westerling, Senate Chair